



Docket No. 1232-4825

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Akihiko NAGANO

Group Art Unit: 2878

Serial No.: 10/083,996

Examiner: Stephen K. Yam

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) which is in response to the Final Office Action of October 3, 2003. Prior to examination on the merits, entry of the following Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper;

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper; and

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 11 of this paper.